



Once upon a time there were two men who were out on a fishing expedition. One was called Mauritz and the other was called Thorbjørn. They came ashore at Visnes because Thorbjørn needed to answer a call of nature.

"I have made a great discovery!" shouted Thorbjørn.
 "What have you found?" asked Mauritz.
 "I have found something that will alter the course of Karmøy's history" cried Thorbjørn jubilantly.

He had discovered copper.

"Hip hip hooray, we will be rich men from now on!" bellowed Mauritz.

Thorbjørn and Mauritz contacted a copper specialist in Belgium who quickly travelled to Visnes and commenced mining work. A few years later, Visnes was a busy mining town of nearly 3000 people with its own school, hospital, dairy, and several shops.

Day and night, 800 men worked in the mines where they became filthy and tired. It was hard and dangerous work. Down in the underground shafts, they hacked the copper ores to be conveyed to the nearby harbour in small wagons where it was loaded on board cargo ships. The ships transported the copper to many countries making the deposits at Visnes one of northern Europe's largest copper mines.



Now it is your turn to participate in an adventure at the old mining works. What will you find here? Good luck!

①

Start by entering the area through Oscar's Gate. This was the original entrance to the mines. It was here that the miners worked on extracting the copper ore. The mine shafts descend as deep as 730 metres into the earth. As you enter through the gates you will see the mines, which are now filled with water. What is the Norwegian name of the mine?

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②

The mining site at Visnes was Norway's largest workplace in 1882. When the mines were closed after 30 years of operation, many of the families affected took their house with them when moving. When standing at the gate, you can see a worker's house that is still standing. Go around to the back of the house and look in through the window by the door. Which room can you see?

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③

The statue depicts how the mine workers were dressed and equipped. The statue of the miner is holding an oil lamp in his right hand. The miner needed this lamp in order to see in the dark mineshafts. What is he holding in his left hand?

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④

The Museum's general store was a dollhouse in Haugesund that was moved to Visnes in the 1980s. Look through the window and locate the large green container on the counter. What do you think was stored in this?

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⑤

It wasn't just copper that was extracted from the mines. What else did the miners dig out?

⑥

In order to find the next post, you will need to climb to the top of the playground mine. Can you see the pavilion? Slide down and find the way up there.

⑦

The clerks who worked at the mining office used the pavilion for social events. Here they could enjoy the view with a glass of champagne. Look out the windows and try to find an island with white houses. Study the map to find out what the largest of these islands is called.

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⑧

Go down to the pathway again going towards the right. The next goal is the smelter works. It was in operation for 15 years. Production was stopped following protests from local farmers, who maintained that their crops were being destroyed due to pollution. How many door and window openings does the smelter works have today?

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⑨

Follow the pathway by the sea in order to find a replica of the Statue of Liberty. The real statue was given by France to the USA to celebrate the centenary of American independence in 1886. How high is the real Statue of Liberty?

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Put all your selected letters together, and try to make a word that has to do with Visnes. You can also see the answer on a sign hanging on the administration building (the red house at post 3).

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CONGRATULATIONS, you have found the secret word!
 Now don't forget to collect your diploma from Visnes Mining Museum, Nordvegen History Centre at Avaldsnes, or online at visitkarmoy.no

To get better acquainted with the history of Visnes, why not try this activity trail? Start by looking for the old mine!

Eventyrjakt

Visnes

